

**First Presbyterian Church
Pasadena, Texas
Timeline**

1936-1939

PASTORS: **Rev. Hubert H. Hopper**, Stated Supply, November 8, 1936-January 3, 1937 (Also served as pastor of Central Park Presbyterian Church, Houston, the founding church)

Rev. Walton G. Sugg, Jr., Stated Supply, half time, January 3, 1937-January 31, 1939 (Also served as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Sugarland, half time)

Rev. H. Leland Murphy, Stated Supply, February 26, 1939-January 25, 1942; Installed Pastor, January 26, 1941-April 1942

November 29, 1936 - Thirteen persons united with the Central Park Presbyterian Church of Houston, to be activated as a mission church in the Pasadena area. First meetings were at Pasadena High School.

January 3, 1937 - Began meeting at the Shell Union Hall, at Shaver St. and Sterling Road (LaPorte Highway, later Highway 225)

December 13, 1936 - G. A. (Dick) Fairfield, Archie Massey, and A. L. Poirrior were elected elders and served every year until 1951. (The rotary system was established in 1948.)

1937 - A lot was purchased for \$300 at the southwest corner of Randall and Broadway. The band hall at Jackson Jr. High School (today, DeZavala Middle School) was bought and moved to the Randall site.

1937 - Champion Paper Mill was built in Pasadena, at Shaver St. and Buffalo Bayou. Several Presbyterian families from Canton, North Carolina, moved to Pasadena to work for the paper mill.

April 1, 1937 - The budget for the year was adopted - \$495.00, which included the pastor's annual salary of \$360.00.

November 1938 - New additions were built onto the sanctuary. The men of the church added a new entrance (narthex) to the front, and a Sunday School room on the south side, with a small kitchen "closet".

May 1939 - The Women's Auxiliary was formed.

May 1939 - Manse at 305 Elm Street was purchased for the pastor's family.

1940-1949

PASTORS: **Rev. H. Leland Murphy**, Installed Pastor, January 26, 1941-April 1942

Rev. J. Martin Singleton, May 10, 1942-February 1946

Rev. John Edward Parse, September 1946-February 2, 1963

October 1, 1940 - Pasadena Presbyterian Church was chartered by Brazos Presbytery, of the Presbyterian Church, US. Dr. Charles L. King, pastor of First Presbyterian, Houston, gave the sermon. He also donated a pulpit Bible, and made the suggestion that the new church be named First Presbyterian Church, Pasadena, in order to leave open the possibility of more Presbyterian churches in Pasadena's future.

There were 42 persons who became the first members of the new church. The group included the mother and grandparents of current member, Johnnie Haltom. The parents and brother of current member, Diane Hall, and the mother of Margaret Bardin were also included.

May 30, 1941 - The first wedding was held at the Pasadena Presbyterian Church. Ray and Mozell Hinely Cordrey were married by Rev. Leland Murphy.

1941-1945 - During World War II, Pasadena's growth boomed with new refineries, new shipbuilding plants, and the new Goodyear rubber plant.

1942 - Boy Scout Troop 49 was established at the church, with 8 members. Glenn Boatright was the Scout Master.

1942 - Our first Preaching/Evangelical Mission was led by Rev. Thomas Currie, Jr., father of a later pastor, Rev. Dr. James Currie.

1946 - Manse at 708 Walter Street was purchased for the pastor's family.

1947 - Mariners Class for Young Adults began.

1948 - Church member, T. Jay Foster, was on the school board and suggested that the church buy some of the surplus school land adjacent to the Gardens Elementary School.

December 11, 1949 - The new church sanctuary, 1211 Harris Street, was dedicated. (The old band hall/sanctuary/classroom building from Randall Street was moved behind the new sanctuary and used as the educational building.)

1950-1959

PASTOR: **Rev. John Edward Parse**, September 1946-February 2, 1963

1951 - Brazos Presbytery's Camp Cho-Yeh was established in Livingston. Rev. Oscar Landry was the first camp manager. FPC members, Martha Parse and Diane Hall, were campers during the first summer.

1953 - An education and office wing were added to the sanctuary, extending to the west side.

1954 - FPC helped to establish **Eastminster Presbyterian Church** at 403 Preston Road.

1956 - **Rev. David Jordan** was installed as assistant pastor.

Two new manses were purchased: 1608 Jane Drive for Rev. Parse and family, and 1906 Edgehill for Rev. Jordan.

Rev. Jordan began a new ministry, as chaplain for the US Air Force.

The Ladies Auxiliary adopted a new name, Women of the Church.

Air conditioning was installed in the sanctuary.

FPC helped to establish **Faith Presbyterian Church**, 2301 South Houston-Pasadena Road.

An educational building, including a nursery, was built behind the sanctuary on the northwest side of the property.

A Baldwin electronic organ was installed in the sanctuary.

1958 - **Rev. James Shott** was installed as assistant pastor.

1958 - A day school for Kindergarten was organized at the church, with Mrs. Virginia Holmes as director. Mrs. Holmes served in that capacity until 1971. Mrs. Doris Locke was the first teacher, with 17 pupils. Dr. R. C. Davis was chairman of the board, Chuck Fletcher was the treasurer, and Mrs. W. D. Loveless served as secretary.



1960-1969

PASTORS: **Rev. John Edward Parse**, September 1946-February 2, 1963

Rev. Harry L. Johnson, August 1963-June 1974

1960 - Fellowship Hall was built at the north end of the property. It contained a basketball court/large meeting room, six classrooms, and a large kitchen.

1961 - The old, original Randall St. building at the rear of the sanctuary was torn down.

1962 - The youth educational wing was built on the east side of the rear property. It had eight classrooms.

February 14, 1962 - Rev. Jack C. Parse was ordained a Presbyterian minister. He was the first FPC member to go to seminary and become a minister.

1963 - The church had 635 members, and Rev. Parse began a new ministry at the First Presbyterian Church, Liberty. (Note: Eastminster Church had 277 members; Faith Presbyterian Church had 306 members.)

A new manse was purchased at 1501 Lavonia for the pastor's family.

NASA opened its new facility in Clear Lake City. Population and Presbyterians in Pasadena boomed as a result.

Summer 1964 - David Thomas was installed as assistant minister.

1965 - **Rev. Richard Poteet** was installed as the first associate minister. He left in May 1969 to serve a church in San Antonio

1966 - FPC became a member of the Gulf Coast Blood Center. Al Thweatt was chairman of the blood drives at the church for seventeen years.

1968 - A four-year-old class was added to the pre-school program.

1968 - The first ecumenical ministry to seafarers was organized by three pastors in east Houston. These pastors were the Rev. Taft Lyon (Presbyterian), Fr. Rivers Patout (Roman Catholic), and Rev. Sam Duree (Methodist). FPC committed to this ministry at the time.

March 23, 1969 - The new sanctuary was dedicated. The total cost was \$235,501.00, and it seated 650 people. The old sanctuary was partitioned into spaces for a parlor, choir room, bride's room, chapel, and in 1977, a library. The church had 900 members.

September 1969 - **Rev. Patricia McClurg** was installed as our first woman associate pastor. She left in 1970 to continue studies at SMU in Dallas.

1969 - Jean Kyle, Presbyterian missionary to Iraq, lived in Pasadena while on her one-year furlough.

1970-1979

PASTORS: **Rev. Harry L. Johnson**, August 1963-June 1974

Rev. Dr. George K. Kluber, August 1975-July 1994

September, 1970 - The session changed from a bicameral system, with elders and deacons separated, to a unicameral system, with three classes of seven elders each.

1972 - Jeanne West became the first Director of Christian Education for the church.

Pasadena Interfaith Brotherhood was organized by B'nai B'rith, Knights of Columbus, and First Presbyterian Church.

June 1974 - A farewell reception was given for Harry Johnson and his family. The church presented them with a "Friendship Quilt".

1974 - **Rev. Dr. Charles L. King** served as Supply Pastor.

1975 - A Reuter Opus 340 pipe organ was bought (for \$2100) from a College Station home, and a group of men from the church moved it to our sanctuary. It was dedicated

on December 14. In 1979, a new console was installed. Gordon Stoltz refinished the console cabinet.

1976 - Al Poirrier died of a heart attack while working at the church. He was a charter member in 1936 and was the first maintenance engineer for the church. He served in that capacity until his death.

Dr. R. C. and Barbara Davis donated a silver chalice to be used with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

1977 - The church library was organized with Eloise Stoltz in charge. She was assisted by Martha Pay, Gibbye Roberts, and Clotile Good. Gordon Stoltz built the library shelves.

September 1977 - **Ted Foote** began a year's service as our first Intern Associate Pastor from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Summer 1978 - Ted Foote and Martha Pay took the first Youth Mission Trip with Kathy Cammack, Arthur Oswald, Susan Goates, Bruce Jones, and two youth from Faith Presbyterian Church. They served in the Stewpot Ministry at First Presbyterian Church, Dallas, and held a day camp ministry.

1978 - The Bridge Over Troubled Waters was organized by FPC members, Carolyn and Bob Russell, Roy and Nancy Penney.

September 1978 - **Tim Ferrell** served for a year as Intern Associate Pastor

September 1979 - **Walker Westerlage** served for a year as Intern Associate Pastor.

1979 - FPC helped with the beginning of Meals on Wheels located at Sharon Lutheran Church.

October 14, 1979 - Pasadena Interfaith Manor held its groundbreaking ceremony at 2112 Easthaven, just west of Burke Road. A \$3.5 million grant from HUD was a big help. Sponsors were (and still are, in 2015) First Presbyterian Church; Knights of Columbus, Council 3700; and B'nai B'rith Lodge 2172.

Winter, 1979 - FPC assisted a family of Vietnamese refugees in beginning a new life in Pasadena. They were Quang Le Tan and wife Gi Nguyen (Judy), and children, Loni, Quinn, Mike, and Christine. They were given a home and furnishings, jobs and guidance from a committee with leadership provided by Martha and Miles Julian, James and Mary Jo Halbert, and Dale Sinor.

1980-1989

PASTOR: **Rev. Dr. George K. Kluber**, 1975-1994

September 1980 - **Kevin Keaton**, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, began his service of one year as Intern Associate Pastor.

1980 - Pasadena Interfaith Manor 1 was completed and dedicated. Pat Pesl was the administrator. Other active participants from FPC were Sterling Loomis, Virgil Cammack, and Martha Julian.

Summer 1981 - Kevin Keaton and Martha Pay took the senior high youth to serve at the Stewpot Ministry and day camp in Dallas, First Presbyterian Church.

September 1981 - **Ken Mahaffey** served as our fifth Intern Associate Pastor from Austin Seminary.

1982 - Edna Jones was installed as Parish Visitor.

1982 - The first meeting of the FPC Intercessory Prayer Group was held under the leadership of Alice Davidson, Edna Jones, Ray Dell Harrell, Rowene McNeill, and Frances Yeargin.

November 1982 - **Rev. Charlotte Kibler** was installed as Associate Pastor. She served until May 1987.

1983 - We celebrated the reunion of the northern and southern Presbyterian Churches and became the Presbyterian Church (USA).

December 26, 1983 - Mrs. Daisy Lasley, a dedicated church member, died and left 2/3 of her estate to FPC and 1/3 to Itasca Children's Home. At age 80, she had taken a tour of The Holy Land.

September 1984 - We began our participation in the Loaves and Fishes Ministry at 2009 Congress St. in Houston, with Mike Pay as chairman. Food was prepared at our church on Saturday and taken with our volunteers to serve about 250 street people, once a month.

June 1984 - Senior High Youth took a mission work trip to Springfield, Missouri, and were led by Charlotte Kibler, John and Laura Wamble.

1985 - Pasadena Interfaith Manor 2 was completed and dedicated.

1987 - Janet Sue Couvillion Whetzel began missionary work with Youth with a Mission.

September 1985 - A Church Picnic and Activity Day was held at Camp Cho-Yeh.

1986 - A new set of handbells was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Loomis. Jay Dunahoo, choir director, became the handbell director.

1986 - The Women of the Church received their new name, Presbyterian Women, to be effective in 1988. This occurred because of the reunion of the two churches— Presbyterian Church/USA (northern) and Presbyterian Church/US (southern).

1986 - The FPC Sewing Club began meeting with 14 members, including Lucile Loomis, Thaine Thweatt, Jarine Jenkins, Opal Boatright, and Johnnie Clark.

1986 - The FPC Literacy Program began and was led by Mike Pay and Rhonda Haskins, with the Mission Committee.

1986 - The Forum, a Bible study group for men, was formed.

March 1987 - FPC and the Church Women United celebrated the 100th anniversary of World Day of Prayer.

April 12, 1987 - FPC joined other local churches in the annual CROP Walk, held at the reflecting pool of the San Jacinto Monument, followed by picnic on the monument grounds.

1987 - The Reuter pipe organ was modernized and expanded and rededicated. The total expense was \$53,325 and was paid for by the Daisy Lasley Fund. Marlene Hansen gave the dedicatory recital.

May 1987 - The Women of the Church held a Retreat for Prayer and Meditation at the Bay Area Park, from 9 to 1:30.

1987 - The choir purchased new red robes and donated the old black robes to another church.

September 1988 - **Deborah Dill** began her one-year service as Intern Associate Pastor.

April 1989 - We celebrated the burning of the church mortgage debt.

June 1989 - The FPC Historical Room was established by Robert and Diane Hall. It was located in the small room on the east side of the chapel. This room was the pastor's office in the original 1949 sanctuary building.

September 1989 - **Kristine Brantley** became our next Intern Associate Pastor.

November 1989 - A gathering of our church's charter members and/or their children was featured.

1990-1999

PASTORS: **Rev. Dr. George Kluber**, November 1975-July 1994

Rev. Dr. Robert Garwig, December 1995-June 2000.

September 1990-August 1992 - **Richard Culp** served as Intern Associate Pastor.

Summer 1991 - Youth Mission Trip was taken to Laredo, Texas, and to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, with leaders Leslie and Richard Culp, Kathy and Bill Goeppinger. The group led a Vacation Bible School and carried out several house repairs.

Summer 1992 - A joint VBS was held with St. Peter's Episcopal Church and was implemented by Mary Jo Halbert, Rev. Ben Skyles, and Dr. Kluber.

September 1992 - **Scott Simpson** became the next Intern Associate Pastor.

May 1994 - Church picnic was held at Bay Area Park.

1994 - The John Fakes estate left a large inheritance to FPC.

July 31, 1994 - Dr. Kluber retired from the ministry and moved to Fredericksburg.

1994 - **Rev. Patrick Abrams** served as Interim Pastor.

1996 - FPC members began building houses with Habitat for Humanity. The first house was built on W. Pitts Street.

1997 - Pasadena Community Ministry began service, using rooms at the Golden Acres Methodist Church.

January 1997 - "Building Because We Care" program started in order to implement the construction of our new campus at 4647 Preston Road. This program continued until March 1999. Danny Slaven was chair of the building committee.

June 7, 1997 - Groundbreaking was held at the new site. Participants included Bill Welch and John Manlove, Pasadena City Council members; Genevieve Fairfield and Laura Wamble, charter members.

October 1997 - First Annual Fall Festival was held as a fund raiser for the new church.

1997 - Cross in the City was established on Tatar Street (Pasadena Blvd.) as a ministry to teenagers in the area who were involved in drugs and gangs. Its location was eventually moved to the Second Baptist Church, 1320 Scott Street.

1998 - The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce presented FPC with a "Landscape Beautification Award".

February 1998 - Homecoming at the Harris Street church was held. Rev. Jim Shott and Esther, Rev. Harry Johnson, and Rev. Jack Parse were among those attending.

Summer 1998 - Mission trip with CEDEPCA to Guatemala

August 16, 1998 - Dedication of our new First Presbyterian Church building on Preston Road was held.

October 1999 - A large stained-glass cross was added to the sanctuary's large window.

1999 - Young at Heart for FPC seniors was established. It was a time for table games, lunch, and occasional day bus trips.



2000-2009

PASTORS: **Rev. Dr. Robert Garwig**, December 1995-June 2000

Rev. Jeffery Henderson (Jeff) Smith, May 2002-October 2004

Rev. Dean Pogue, January 2006-2010

February 2000 - The large stained-glass window from the sanctuary of the Harris Street church was transferred to its large cabinet in the narthex of the new church. This was carried out by Sherry and Gene Howard, and Diane and Robert Hall.

August 2000 - **Rev. Stephen Rehrig** was welcomed as Interim Pastor.

October 27, 2000 – Stained-glass inserts were installed in 6 doors of the sanctuary and fellowship hall. They were created and installed by Lou Goates.

Thanksgiving Day, 2000 - A small tornado caused damage to the sanctuary, offices, and fellowship hall.

Fall 2000 - Women's Prayer Retreat was held in New Braunfels.

December 2000 - A large portable labyrinth was brought to the church by Rev. Carolyn Vissar of Northwoods Presbyterian Church

December 2000 - A "Bethlehem Market", with costumes, nativity scene, activities, and live animals was held in the fellowship hall. Will and Sarah Haltom and Olivia portrayed the holy family. Gayle Warzon and Rhonda Haskins did the planning.

2001 - Stained glass was added to the side windows of the sanctuary.

2001 - The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce presented FPC with a "Landscape Beautification Award".

2002 - Our first Heritage Sunday was celebrated, with Scottish outfits and bagpiper.

2005 - **Rev. Dr. W. Guy Delaney** received a big welcome as Interim Pastor. Guy and his young family were active members of this church before he went to Seminary.

May 22-May 29, 2005 - Family Promise began by hosting a homeless family with meals, transportation, and overnight stay in the church building for a week.

June 2005 - Holy Grounds Coffee Café was opened. It functioned as a Coffee House with entertainment and table games on Friday night. Coffee drinks and smoothies were also served on Sunday mornings.

September 2005 - Alpha Group began with Rhonda Haskins. Disciple Bible Study was led by Rev. Pat Abrams.

October 9, 2005 - 65th Anniversary Celebration. Diane Hall provided leadership.

October 31, 2006 - First annual "Trick or Trunk" was held in our parking lot and fellowship hall.

December 2006 - Bethlehem Market was begun, which is an alternative gift market where members may donate to various missions of the church in honor of someone.

December 2006 - Young at Heart took a bus trip to the Dunham Family Bible in America Museum at Houston Baptist University.

February 14, 2007 - Brown Bag and Bible Study began with the study of the Psalms, led by Dean Pogue.

February, 2007 - Handbell choir participated in the FebFest at First Baptist Church, Houston.

December 2007 - Rhonda Haskins organized and printed our first devotional booklet for Advent. Members of the church contributed the written messages.

2008 - The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce presented FPC with a "Landscape Beautification Award".

August 28, 2008 - The Gathering Place held its first activity day for our Care Partners in their early stages of Alzheimer's and Dementia. The theme was "Sunflowers", and snacks, arts and crafts, exercise, singing, entertainment, lunch, and bingo were provided. Common Ground is the support group offered to care givers. The Deacons of FPC sponsor this monthly event.

October 2008 - The Gathering Place volunteer care givers of FPC were joined by a group of students from the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) class at Pasadena Memorial High School.

November 15, 2008 - We hosted the meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant. Ben and Donna Nichols organized the volunteers, t-shirts, and activities.

January 11, 2009 - SHINE (Seeking Him In Everything), a program of work and vision for the church, was presented by Jim Bushong and Rev. Diane Prevary.

November 3, 2009 - Prayer Shawl Ministry had its first meeting. Sessions have continued on Tuesday afternoons every week. Prayer shawls are knitted or crocheted with prayer, blessed in Sunday service and given to persons who are ill or handicapped.

December 13, 2009 – The FPC Performing Arts Series

2010-2019

PASTORS: **Rev. Dr. James S. Currie**, November 2010-August 2018

Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, December 2019-present

January 2010 – The Deacons of FPC deliver the Sunday worship flowers to members with illnesses or special needs. The Deacons also serve extended communion to the homebound members each month.

February 28, 2010 – Rev. John Ahn, Associate Professor of Old Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, was the speaker of the Men's Ministry breakfast meeting.

February 28, 2010 – Rhonda Haskins was commissioned as a Certified Christian Educator at our church.

Spring and Summer 2010 – The FPC Garden Ministry was begun and planted on the south lawn area by the parking lot. Roy Kreitz was the Master Gardener for this project with assistance from Danny Slaven.

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010 – Rev. Dean Pogue preached his last sermon.

April 2010 - Pasadena Faith in Action held its first work day. There were 400 volunteers from 13 local churches and 25 work sites in Pasadena and Deer Park.

October 2, 2010 – Glenn Bannerman, General Assembly Recreational Leader, held a workshop at FPC.

October 3, 2010 – The PYCC Youth Rally was hosted by FPC.

October 15-16, 2010 – Fourteen women from FPC attended the PW Fall Retreat at Camp Cho-Yeh.

October 29-31, 2010 – A weekend with Rev. Dr. Jesse Truvillion was held at FPC.

November 20, 2011 - Community Thanksgiving Service was observed at First Methodist Church with combined choirs and nine participating churches.

April 2011 - Cut Ups began meeting for activities in arts and crafts and was led by Mary Swan and Liz Reed.

June 18, 2011 - Brunch and Book Group held its first session. Pat Conroy's memoir, *My Reading Life*, was the first selection, and Jo Ann Currie was the leader.

July 2011 - Shane Webb was ordained as a Presbyterian minister at our church. In August, Shane and Sarah began service as mission volunteers in Peru.

September 2011 - Youth Group was reactivated, meeting Sunday evenings with supper and mission and recreation activities, led by Jo Ann and Jim Currie.

March 2012 - Weekly praise songs and devotional ministry was begun by Jim Currie and several FPC members at Baywood Crossing Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center on Space Center Blvd.

March 25, 2012 - The Noel Wilkins Scholarship Concert was presented by the music departments of San Jacinto College Central and First Presbyterian Church.

April 11, 2012 - The Brown Bag and Bible Study group toured the Holocaust Museum Houston. The group had been studying the life and works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

June 2012 - The Youth Mission Study Trip included visits to Austin College, Goodland Presbyterian Children's Home, Heifer Project headquarters in Arkansas, University of the Ozarks, and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

July 2012 - Jason Reed served as Commissioner from Presbytery of New Covenant to the General Assembly meeting in Pittsburgh, PA.

Fall 2012 - Men of the church began gathering for breakfast, prayer, and scripture every Thursday morning at 6:30 at Frank's Grill on Spencer Highway.

September 2012 - The Disciple Bible Study began with weekly sessions led by Rhonda and Steve Haskins.

October 6, 2012 - A gathering of all charter members and/or their children was celebrated, under the leadership of Robert and Diane Hall and Johnnie Haltom.

October 2012 - Jo Ann Currie and Mary Swan began service as co-Directors of Christian Education. Carrie Reed began leadership as Director of Early Childhood Program, the preschool program of the church.

January 19, 2013 - BullySafe Pasadena was held, with SuEllen Fired from Kansas City, KS, as the leader. It was organized by Mary Swan, Director of Christian Education for Children and Their Families and funded by presbytery and synod grants.

February 2013 – The Valentine’s Banquet and Talent Show served 140 people.

April 2013 – Jean Johnston, Gathering Place leader, was honored as the recipient of the Dr. Ronald H. Sunderland Care Team Member Award, presented at the annual dinner of Interfaith CarePartners in Houston.

May 2013 – A church wide Garage Sale was held to help pay for the youth summer trips. \$2800 was gained in the one-day sale.

June 2013 – “Summer Soul Stories: Glimpses of God in Ordinary Time” was published. It featured a collection of devotionals and stories written by members.

June 2013 – The Youth Mission Study Trip went to Arkansas, and north and central Texas. A life-changing night was spent in the Global Village at Heifer International in Perryville, Arkansas. A tour was taken of Central High School Park and Museum in Little Rock. They delivered Presbyterian Disaster Kits to the PDA headquarters at Ferncliff Camp, Arkansas.

July 2013 – Casey Lasley, Alyssa Wallace, and Aaron Arambula were selected to participate in Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University. Jim and Jo Ann Currie attended with them.

July 2013 – The new youth room, The Oasis, opened with fresh paint, new storage area, ping-pong table, television, and Adirondack chairs.

Summer 2013 – New hymnals, *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, were introduced.

July 2013 – Maria Morales was honored for her 25 years of faithful service as custodian.

August 2013 – Jo Ann Currie began service as Director of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation.

September 2013 – YGAC (Youth Group After Church) began meeting on Sundays after church for lunch, study, fun activities, and service.

October 2013- World Communion Sunday included a variety of breads and tablecloths from many countries. Parts of the service were conducted in German, Korean, French, Spanish, and Urdu (Pakistan) languages.

December 2013 – The Presbyterian Women, led by Melba Slaven, organized a service project for veterans at Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Members gave a party and gave gently used coats and jackets and gift bags with socks, cookies, and other goodies to the veterans.

January 2014 – The Mission and Outreach Ministry was reactivated and dedicated to finding ways to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to people outside of the church.

January 2014 – Wonderful Wednesdays began featuring a soup or salad supper with a guest speaker or entertainment.

March 2014 - A group of members, led by Rev. Dr. Jim Currie, toured Scotland to get in touch with the historical and theological roots of the Presbyterian Church.

March 2014 - Crosses on the Corner was created by Liz Reed. Church members decorated crosses to represent ministries and families, which were put on display during Holy Week.

March 2014 – The Human Trafficking Traveling Art Exhibit, entitled “Look Beneath the Surface”, which was provided by Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition, was on display for several weeks in the sanctuary.

March 2014 - FPCP hosted an intergenerational, interdenominational, interracial Gospel Weekend with leaders, Rev. Todd and Linda O’Neal and Ellen Maxwell from The House of Joy Christian Ministries in Cincinnati, Ohio, along with Patsy Winn, a member of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Baytown.

Spring 2014 - Grief Recovery Group began monthly meetings and were led by Nola Bray and a counselor from St. Luke’s Patients’ Hospital.

Summer 2014 – POP (Picnic on the Playground) began as a monthly family gathering at the church playground for lunch, games, water fun, fellowship after church during the summer months.

Summer 2014 – WOW (Wide Open Weekdays) began for the youth. It included painting the Tree of Life on the wall in the Oasis, making decorative soaps with Liz Reed, and preparing pickled cucumbers with Roy Kreitz.

June 2014 – Youth and leaders went on a mission/study trip to Ghost Ranch.

August 2014 – First Church Family “Camp Out” evening was held on the rear lawn and playground area with hot dogs, s’mores, croquet, a reading tent, and a night time walk in the trees.

Spring and Fall 2014 – Men’s Ministry worked on construction projects at Mo-Ranch under the leadership of Ben Nichols. Women also went in the fall to update the Mo-Ranch library.

October 2014 – New banners representing the Six Great Ends of the Church were hung on the back walls of the sanctuary. The initiative was led by Donna Nichols and the Worship & Music Ministry.

November 2014 – FPC launched a special fund campaign to make necessary renovations and improvements to the 85-year-old pipe organ.

December 2014 – Presbyterian Women hosted a “Pretty Ugly Christmas Party” for members and friends of the church.

2015 – First Presbyterian Church celebrated 75 years of ministry in Pasadena with special church services and activities.

2015 – The theme for the year was “Sowing Seeds of Hope.”

2015 – Decluttering group started.

May 6, 2015 – The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce presented FPC with a “Landscape Beautification Award”.

April 2015 – Youth sponsored Spring Fling Banquet and Talent Show for the congregation and community.

June 2015 – Youth and leaders went on a mission/study trip to Ghost Ranch.

August 2015 – The men of the church installed a GaGa Dodge Ball Pit for the youth.

September 2015 – Celebration Services began on the third Sunday night of the month at 6:30 pm in September, October, and November.

October 17 & 18, 2015 – A weekend of special events and services was held to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the church.

2016 - The FPC session adopted the following mission statement: “Our mission is to live and share the good news of God’s love, grace, and mercy in Jesus Christ, to equip people for discipleship and service, and to work for social justice and peace.”

2016 – The congregation was divided into cluster groups with an elder and deacon paired with each group to help build relationships and provide pastoral care.

January 2016 – The Dave Ramsey Financial Peace class was offered.

January 2016 – A Spanish speaking Bible study was started, which was led by Imelda Carrillo, a commissioned lay pastor from Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Galveston.

March 2016 – As part of the Lenten offerings, members were given the opportunity to attend a Day of Silence and Solitude at Villa de Matel.

June 2016 – Chair and floor yoga classes were started.

June 2016 – The youth and leaders went on a mission/study group to Mo-Ranch and the Hill Country.

October 2016 – First shredding event took place.

November 2016 – FPC hosted the Stated Presbytery Meeting.

December 16, 2016 – An intergenerational musical, “The Inn Crowd”, was presented during worship.

2017 – The theme for the year was “Growing in Grace and Gratitude.”

2017 – FPC celebrated the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing the 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, throughout the year in a variety of ways with the Presbyterian theme, “Reformed and always reforming.”

February 17, 2017 – FPC hosted Presbytery of New Covenant Church Leadership event.

March 2017 – The Rev. Dr. Jim Currie led members and friends on a Reformation tour to Germany and Prague.

May 2017 – FPC sponsored the first “Taco and a Prayer”, where members prepared and served tacos and said prayers with students, teachers, and the community.

February 17, 2018 – FPC hosted Presbyterian Leadership Enrichment 2018 with Joan S. Gray as keynote speaker.

August 31, 2018 – Pastor Jim and Jo Ann Currie, Director of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation, retired and moved to Austin.

October 2018 – Session made the decision to pursue a Designated Pastor. Worship Ministry set up Pulpit Supply.

October 2, 2018 – Jessie Kuehner was hired to be Interim Director of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation.

October 2018 – Ron Ollis was hired as church organist. A new part-time position, Office Assistant, was created and Amanda Baker was hired to fill it.

December 2018 – Mission & Outreach organized gifts and gift cards for two families in need.

January – November 2019 – Worship & Music Ministry continued to set up Pulpit Supply, as the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee did their work.

June, 2019 – FPC youth and adults joined with people from six other Presbyterian churches to serve the community in Beaumont by helping with Harvey relief.

July – During a “Christmas in July” project, members made 24 Christmas gift boxes for seafarers to add to those assembled by Presbyterian Women.

July 16-20, 2019 – Chrissy Ellis, Darcy McPhail, and sponsor, Chere Wharry, participated in Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University.

August 2019 – Office assistant, Amanda Baker, moved to South Carolina. Session approved her working long distance.

October 2019 – A major update to the website was made by Bonnie Keith and Amanda Baker.

November 2019 – The Designated Pastor Nominating Committee nominated the Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair to serve as designated pastor effective December 1, 2019, and the congregation unanimously voted in favor.



October 2019

2020-2029

PASTOR: **Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair**, December 2019-present

January 8, 2020 – Brown Bag and Bible resumed under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Fair.

January 19, 2020 – The Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair was installed as designated pastor.

February 2020 – After 20 years of faithful service, Ruth Askine stepped down as church librarian and Bonnie Keith took responsibility.

February 16, 2020 – The youth hosted Valentine Bingo and lunch for members following the worship service.

March 2020 – In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the session voted to close the church building for worship and all activities including the Early Childhood Program.

March 15, 2020 – The Rev. Dr. Fair began presenting virtual worship services and twice weekly devotionals.

March and April 2020 – The Session, Presbyterian Women, and other groups and classes began meeting virtually by using Zoom or teleconferencing.

March and April 2020 – Members purchased shares to pay for a \$1500 garden well from the Presbyterian Online Giving Catalog, as part of a nationwide Links of Love project. For every share bought, a link was added to a chain that stretched 24 feet, which was sent to be linked with other chains from around the country for display at the virtual Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 224th General Assembly in Baltimore.

April 12, 2020 – Easter worship was celebrated virtually. Members were invited to add fresh flowers to a cross that was erected in front of the building.

April 2020 – In response to the high food demand at Pasadena Community Ministries, members gave over \$5800 in cash donations, while others also participated in a food drive sponsored by the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and supported by area churches.

May 7, 2020 – Members were asked to tie ribbons with prayer requests on the cross in front of the church and to prayer from home on the National Day of Prayer.

May and June 2020 – For the 10th year, master gardener, Roy Kreitz, and the gardening team produced fresh vegetables for the congregation. Over two hundred ears of corn were given to Pasadena Community Ministries to distribute to families.

June 2020 – High school graduates, Darcy McPhail and Cole Reed, were recognized in the church newsletter.

June 2020 – Letters and cards of encouragement, along with large print word puzzle books and pens, were sent to the residents and staff of Baywood Crossing Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center.

June 14, 2020 – The first drive-in worship service with communion was held in the parking lot of the church. Members stayed in their cars and listened on their cell phones. The Rev. Dr. Fair preached from the back of a pickup truck, while musicians, Marilyn Wilkins and Ron Ollis, provided music from the back of another one. The audio with pictures was posted on the church website for those who could not attend.

August 2, 2020 – Darcy McPhail was awarded the Young at Heart scholarship.

September 8, 2020 – Early Childhood Program began with COVID-19 protocols in place.

September 13, 2020 - Dr. Brian Blount, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary and Professor of New Testament, was guest preacher via Zoom.

September 16, 2020 – Wonderful Wednesdays resumed with guest speakers, PCUSA missionary partners, Rev. Cathy Chang and her husband, Juan Lopez, from the Philippines via Zoom.

October 4, 2020 – The 80th anniversary of the church and World Communion Sunday were celebrated during drive in worship. A bagpiper helped make the celebration special. Diane Hall had bookmarks made with a picture of the stain glass window of Jesus that was in the Harris Street church and is now built into the cabinet in the narthex.

October 4, 2020 – Following the drive-in worship, there was a congregational meeting to elect officers. Votes were cast by honking car horns.

October 11, 2020 – Worship was held in the building with COVID-19 protocols in place. The session approved alternating having worship in the building with doing virtual worship every other week. Sunday school classes, meetings, and activities continued on Zoom.

November 14, 2020 – A Day of Service was held that resulted in 63 boxes for seafarers; toiletries for seafarers not allowed off their ships; letters, cards, and puzzle books for the residents of Interfaith Pasadena Manor; boxes of food and monetary donations to Pasadena Community Ministries; and 5 hygiene kits for Church World Services/Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

February 17, 2021 – Ash Wednesday Service was held virtually.

April 11, 2021 – The choir was recorded to be played during the worship service.

May 2, 2021 – Diapers and cleaning supplies were collected for Sarah's House.

June 2021 – A pen pal program was set up between members and interested residents of Baywood Crossing.

June 2021 – A new staff position, audio-visual specialist, was created to run the sound system and live stream services.

June 2021 – Adult Sunday school resumed in the building.

August 16, 2021 – Sarah's House, the shelter for homeless women and their children in Pasadena, was adopted as one of the missions of the church.

September 2021 – Sunday school for youth resumed in the building.

September 12, 2021 – The congregation voted to change the Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair's call from designated to called pastor.

October 18, 2021 – Session approved a Manual of Administrative Operations.

October 31, 2021 – Trick or Trunk returned and was hosted in the parking lot and Fellowship Hall.

February 2022 – Older elementary and junior high/senior Sunday school class and activities were combined with the understanding that some activities would be age restricted.

March 2022 – FPC families and groups put out "Crosses on the Corner" for the public to see.

March 26, 2022 – A garage sale to welcome the community back in the building and to empty the garage sale room for the Early Childhood Program music class was held.

April 14, 2022 – The Maundy Thursday soup and service was held again.

April 15, 2022 – A Good Friday service was held at noon.

April 17, 2022 – An Easter Sunday breakfast was served and attendees helped decorate the sanctuary with Easter lilies, followed by Easter Sunday worship.

May 11, 2022 – Taco and a Prayer was started again.

June 6-12, 2022 – FPC hosted the first Vacation Bible School since Covid with the theme, “Knights of North Castle”, which was based on Bible stories.

July 2022 – The first confirmation class since Covid was held and Mia Dickman joined the church.

August, 2022 – Room 8 was set up for a new adult class and meditation room, and room 11 was designated the new Bell Choir practice room.

September 2022 – Holly Leichty was hired as new Office Assistant to replace Amanda Baker, who had been working remotely.

September 12, 2022 – A new adult class, Current Christianity, began under the leadership of Mark Clemmons.

October 18, 2022 – Dr. Fair began officer training.

November 6, 2022 – Dr. Fair presented a workshop on preplanning your funeral to make it easier for your family.

November 20, 2022 – Offering was again collected from the pews.

December 24, 2022 – Communion was again distributed in the pews using the prepackaged communion elements.

January 5, 2023 – The church sustained damage from a tornado. Volunteers from the Texas Baptist Men Disaster Recovery Group (University Baptist Church in Clear Lake) assisted members in cleaning up the campus. The storage shed and steeple had to be repaired.

February 21, 2023 – The choir hosted a Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper for members and guests.

May 11, 2023 – The Mission and Outreach Ministry sponsored Taco and a Prayer.

May 21, 2023 – The Marvin Gaspard Trio and Dr. Fair led the congregation in celebrating jazz communion worship.

May 28, 2023 – The church celebrated Pentecost and 25 years in the current building.

June 12-14, 2023 – Dr. Fair, with help from the choir, led an intergenerational Bible school. She gave the back story on hymns, then everyone enjoyed singing them. There was a light supper provided on the first two nights and the traditional fish fry on the last night.

November 19, 2023 - Tyler Cooper, Nolan Covington, Olivia Covington, and Imsaal Dean joined the church after completing confirmation classes with Dr. Fair.

November 19, 2023 – The choir, bell choir, and musicians of FPC presented a Thanksgiving concert.

December 17, 2023 – During worship 100 quilts made by the Chain Stitchers were blessed and later distributed to veterans living in low-cost housing at the De George at Union Station.

January 7, 2024 – Maria Morales was honored at First Sunday Lunch as she retired from 35 years of faithful service as custodian of FPCP.

February, 2024 – The church hosted *yard.less*, a photographic display of homeless people and the possessions they valued.

February 13, 2024 – The choir did a reprisal of the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper with entertainment.

February 14 – Easter, 2024 – Crosses on the Corner were on display.

April 6, 2024 – FPCP hosted the annual Presbytery wide Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering.

May 16, 2024 – Mission/Outreach hosted a Taco and a Prayer, offering free breakfast tacos and prayers for anyone who came by.

June 3-5 – An intergenerational Summer Family Event was held. For adults it was examining whether certain phrases were Biblical. Children studied and made crafts based on Ephesians 6.

July 8, 2024 – Hurricane Beryl hits the Gulf Coast area and does damage to the church.

September 22, 2024 – In worship, 50 baskets filled with baby items made by the Chain Stitchers and items donated by members were blessed and later given to the Community Pregnancy Center of Pasadena.

November – December – One hundred gift bags were assembled for veterans living in low rent housing, 77 Christmas boxes were assembled for seafarers visiting the Port of Houston, and \$4410 was received through Bethlehem Market to distribute to various missions and nonprofit organizations.

